

INDIAN WARS.

To the Editor of the Historical and Genealogical Register.

DEAR SIR, —

In looking over a mass of papers which have been deposited with me, I find many curious relics of the antiquities of this section of the country, some of which may be interesting to your readers. I can give you much that will be entertaining from the ancient records of this old town, if you should desire it, when my leisure will permit, and also from other sources. I send you now a copy of a letter from Deacon Noah Wright, ancestor of a highly respectable family in this town, in relation to the French and Indian war of 1744, and also an extract from his journal. The letter is copied verbatim, literatim, et punctuatum. The journal is put into more modern language.

STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M. D.

Deerfield, Mass., Jan. 27, 1848.

From Deacon Noah Wright to his Brother.

Deerfield October the 27, 1745.

DEAR BROTHER—these are to inform you that we are in resonabel helth threw the goodness of god in your last lettire to me you desired me to send you an account of what I met with in my Scout I have had no opportunity till now I cant Writ a particular account of the hull scout in the compas of a lettire you must take jeniler hints we set out from deerfield on satterday at three of the clock with 29 men & came to northfield abought dusk the men being gon we made no tarry but set forward for fort dummer & got there at ten of the clock where we found a 11 of northfield men they Joyned us on sabbath day morning we set out for the great meddow & come to the fort abought two clock where we found such things to behold as wold raise the passions of the most stedly man in the world two cattel they were a botcherer there & hyds laying spread almost over the ground but withought any stay their we were ordered to move along after curnel Willard & his men that ware Jest gone along in riding threw the meddow we could scarce turn our eyes without seeing ded creatures sum with their guts tore ought & sum ript open & others part of them carried off & a grat many that lay untouched onldly their hyds were taken off theas sights & many other diversions allmost took away all the sabbath I pray that it may not be my lot thus to be curnal Willard & his men when we mad a holt & then I inquired the affairs of the fight I talked with the ward he seaming a stedly man, & best knowing the affair he thoat the number of the innemy that came in the site of the fort was about 50 when he saw them first their was 8 of them stript withought their guns in pursute of mr how when he see they would cetch him he turned to them & with his hands lifted up rezined himself into their hands & they led him away it is questionable whether they killed any of the innemy tho the solders think they wounded sum of them the innemy were in the meddow scarce an houre at the fort & killing the cattle as they

went off up the river they found David Rug & another man coming down the river in a canoe they shot on them & killed Rug the other man jumped out of the canoe and escaped the enemy they swam over and brought the canoe to them & took off his scalp & left him in the canoe without any abuse we then set forward the full company being 94 men we follow the enemys tracks till about sun-set and there they scattered we camped their munday we set out for number four when we had got within 7 miles of the fort we came on the tracks of a number that steered towards the fort we were ordered to strip ourselves ready for a fight & so we went till we came to the fort but found not the enemy we lay there & on Tuesday set out for him & struck across the upper ashuelot 5 miles before we came to the town we came across some more Indian tracks but see not the Indians we lay at ashuelot & on Wednesday came to Northfield as we came threw.

Copy of a Journal kept by Dea. Noah Wright.

[Corrected Spelling.]

June 7th 1746. The third time at No 4. Captain Stevens and one of the captains of our troops being there, they went out with about fifty men, as I have been informed, to look for some horses, and they come upon an army of Indians. They were commanded to stop there and fight them, which they did, and drove the Indians off from their ground and got upon it and maintained it in spite of them. They received the loss of no men, but four or five wounded, as I have been informed. They sent forty of the men to carry the wounded men to the fort, and the rest maintained the fight and stood them manfully. After the fight was over they found where they drew off several dead Indians into a swamp. They sent down a troop of men to guard Mr. Doolittle and Dr. Williams to cut off the arm of one of their men that was sore wounded, broke that they supposed, that the end would not be healed without cutting off one of his arms. Since, I have been told that our men recover so much plunder, guns, hatchets, spears, lines, and such like things as they sold for seventy or eighty pounds. Since this the next time, June 23^d, a certain small number of Indians, a little below Bridgman's fort run upon a number of men at work, wounded three men, one mortally, so that he died next day, James Baker, by name, from Springfield; the other two are likely to recover. They wounded one Jelson, and Patric Ray. They took one Roberts and Howe, and one John Beaman, a Northfield man. They took from our men several guns; about six men escaped and got away well. At a place called Cold Spring, below fort Dummer, a number of Indians run upon twelve men. Again, July 4, 1746, about twelve ambushed the road to Mr. Hinsdale's mill; about thirty miles from the mill, the Indians shot upon the front of them. It is supposed they did not know what number of men there was. They wounded one Moses Wright, shot off two of his fingers. The men pursued them and they fled. Our men recovered all their packs, so they were forced to flee off naked.

July 28, 1746. A small number of about twelve or sixteen Indians lay several days at Colerain, near Hugh Morrison's fort, to watch the motion of the people, and this morning David Morrison went out little more than gun shot from the fort in order to shoot a hawk, and these Indians ran upon him and took him and led him off captive. August 6, 1746. At Winchester, across the way over against Benaimon Meeting House, lay an ambush, as it is supposed, of about twenty Indians; and several of our men had busi-

ness to pass by not knowing of the ambush, while the Indians fired on them and shot two of them; in the shot one of them named Roger killed the other named Amasa Wright, being one leg shot through part of his neck, recovered himself and got up and made his escape with the rest of the men. The Indians fired thick after them but they all got off alive, only said Roger. About the same time a small number of Indians ambushed the road at the lower Ashuelot and a number of our men were passing along that way. Just as they came near the Indians they turned out of the path and the Indians seeing them, supposing they were discovered, and that the English were rounding them in, rose up and fled through thick and thin, and then our men saw them a flying. They gave them chase, but the Indians outran and escaped them, and there was no "spile dunne on nary side." August 13. This day I have heard of another onset at No. 4. According to the best light I can get there was about three hundred French and Indians that came into the town of No. 4, the 27th day of July being a Sabbath day, and fought thirty hours in the town and burnt their mill and all their houses, save one that stood near the fort, and killed all their cattle and all the troopers' horses and all the doctors in the town, (there must be some mistake in this word. S. W. W.,) but one man lost in the whole fight. I ha'nt heard as they are certain that they killed any of the Indians, and at the same time I heard that the 11th day of August one of Wright's sons of Northfield was riding out to a pasture some distance from the town he was shot by the Indians into one side, and the bullet came out at his other shoulder. His horse brought him in alive, but he died in the night about one o'clock.

August 15, 1746. Near the city of Albany a company of men went out, as I have heard, to get some fresh meat. They were at their return shot upon by the enemy, and eight were killed down upon the spot and two wounded so that one of them died the next day.

August 17, 1746. At Winchester I hear that John Simmons being at some distance from the fort was shot at by several Indians. He not being wounded turned upon them and fired and dropt one Indian. Our men afterwards went there and found blood and one blanket, so that it looked likely that he was killed.

August 22nd, 1746. Between Deerfield and Colerain, about ten men being a travelling the road were shot upon. One Bliss, one of Capt. Holson's soldiers, was killed.

August 25th, 1746. In the southwest corner of Deerfield meadows a number of Indians came upon our men at work, killed and scalped Samuel Allen, Eleazer Hawks, and one of Capt. Holson's soldiers named Jiliet, and two of the widow Amsden's children, taken captive, one boy of Samuel Allen's and chopped a hatchet into the brains of one of his girls. They are in hopes that she will recover. One man killed one of the Indians, who got one gun from them and lost three guns by them.

August 30, 1746. A post this day returned to and from fort Massachusetts, and brings us news that the fort was taken and burnt to ashes, and we ca'nt learn here as there is one man escaped. I am in some hopes that there are some that are taken captive and gone to Canada, and so I a'nt altogether without hopes of seeing some of them again.

Sept. 11, 1746. I saw a letter wrote by Mr. Norton at Hoosick after the fort was taken, and he says that they were besieged by seven hundred French and Indians, and they being brought to a great strait, the enemy prepared a vast quantity of faggots in order to burn down the fort by force, but the French General came to them for capitulation, and told them if they

would resign up the fort he would treat them all well and carry them to Canada; that they should be redeemed as soon as there was any opportunity, and if not he would kill them all. And so they resigned up the fort, and lost but one man, named Norton, and had two wounded, and so all the rest are gone to Canada. He says they are all well used by the enemy. The 3d week in October, 1746, fourteen men were killed and taken captive. March 30, 1747. A certain number of Indians beset a fort in Mary's meadow called Shaddock's fort. They came up with faggots already fixed and burnt down part of the fort, but the folks put out the fire and saved themselves in one of the rooms, and lost none of them. It is supposed they killed one or more of the Indians.

April 8, 1747. The fort at No. 4 burnt by a great army, but could not take the fort.

April 16, 1747. Two men killed at Northfield meadow, Nathaniel Dickinson and Asahel Burt.